

Appln. No. 10/070,512
Amendment dated February 9, 2005
Reply to Office Action of November 18, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The November 18, 2004 Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, claims are cancelled and amended, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

Applicants respectfully request that the title of the invention be amended as indicated in this Amendment. No new matter is added. It is respectfully requested that the Patent Office records be amended to reflect the change in the title.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

In the Office Action, claims 1-9 and 12 are rejected under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112 as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner objects to claims 1-9 and 12 as containing the phrase "or the like."

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In response, claim 12 is cancelled and claims 1-3 are amended to remove the phrase "or the like."

In view of the cancellation of claim 12 and the amendment of claims 1-3, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-9 and 12 under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112 are respectfully requested.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In the Office Action, claims 1-5 and 12 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over USP 5,790,977 (Ezekiel) in view of USP 5,861,882 (Sprenger et al.). Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Ezekiel and Sprenger et al., and further in view of USP 6,434,533 (Fitzgerald). Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Ezekiel and Sprenger et al., and further in view of USP 5,968,110 (Westrope et al.).

In response, claim 12 is cancelled and independent claims 1-3 are amended in a sincere effort to more clearly define the present claimed invention over the cited reference.

The present claimed invention as defined by amended claim 1 is directed to an interactive demonstration method for a

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measuring instrument using a network. The method includes identifying a user obtaining access to a measuring instrument information providing server from a user terminal of the user on the basis of a customer database incorporated in the measuring instrument information providing server and specifying a predetermined measuring instrument with respect to which the user makes a request for operation. In response to a request for providing demonstration information on a predetermined measuring instrument from a user terminal and a request for making operation, the method includes delivering to the user terminal via a network an operational program that contains demonstration information for measuring properties of a desired object to be measured, such as a desired electronic device including at least one of electronic equipment and electronic parts, thereby switch-connecting the desired object to the measured to the predetermined measuring instrument. The method also includes causing the user terminal to deliver to a predetermined measuring instrument terminal via the network an operational command that contains measurement items and measuring conditions of the user's interest which are operated and input at the user terminal, in addition to the demonstration information in order to measure the properties of the desired object to the measured, thereby switch-

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connecting the desired object to be measured to the predetermined measuring instrument based on the delivered operational program. Thereafter, the method causes the measuring instrument terminal to control the predetermined measuring instrument connected to the measuring instrument terminal in response to the operational command that contains demonstration information including measurement items and measuring conditions of the user's interest which is output from the user terminal in order to measure the properties of the desired object to be measured, thereby switch-connecting the desired object to be measured to the predetermined measuring instrument, and to deliver a measurement result obtained by the measuring instrument to the user terminal via the network. The method further includes causing the user terminal to output the measurement result delivered from the measuring instrument terminal via the network.

In rejecting independent claim 1, the Examiner relies upon Ezekiel in view Sprenger et al.

Ezekiel relates to a server incorporated in a measuring instrument. In the server, an operation program for the measuring instrument, etc. are stored, and are to be sent to a user terminal. As a result, Ezekiel does not enable a user to select any kind of measuring instrument, since the reference

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teaches a structure in which a server is incorporated in a measuring instrument.

In contrast, in the present claimed invention, a measuring instrument information providing server is provided separate from the measuring instruments. Thus, a user can select a desired one of the kinds of measuring instruments by obtaining access to the measuring instrument information providing server. Furthermore, a customer database is incorporated in the measuring instrument information providing server, and stores customer information on users which have obtained access to the measuring instrument information providing server. By virtue of this feature, a user obtaining access to the measuring instrument information providing server is identified based on the customer database, and a measuring instrument is specified with respect to which the user has made a request for operation (see Fig. 2 and the corresponding description of the present application).

Neither Sprenger et al. nor any of the other references bridge the gap between the present claimed invention as defined by amended claim 1 and Ezekiel.

That is, claim 1 is patentable over the cited references, because the references do not disclose, teach or suggest an

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interactive demonstration method for a measuring instrument using
a network including the steps of, inter alia:

identifying a user obtaining access to a measuring
instrument information providing server from a user terminal
of the user on the basis of a customer database incorporated
in the measurement information providing server and
specifying a predetermined measuring instrument with respect
to which the user has made a request for operation (see
claim 1, lines 4-9).

In view of the foregoing, claim 1 is patentable over the
cited references under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103.

Independent claims 2 and 3 are patentable over the cited
references for reasons, inter alia, set forth above in connection
with claim 1.

Claims 4-9 are either directly or indirectly independent on
claims 2 and 3 and are patentable over the cited references in
view of their dependence on claims 2 and 3 and because the
references do not disclose, teach or suggest each of the
limitations set forth in claims 4-9.

In view of the foregoing, claims 1-9 are patentable over the
cited references under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103.

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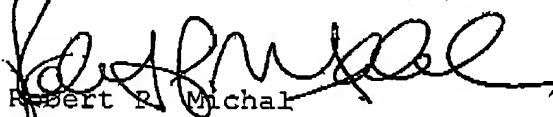
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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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